

AMENDMENT

Amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

In the claims:

Amend claims 1, 4, 6 and 15 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A base for shipping and supporting an appliance, comprising:
a frame having four sides, each side adapted to extend along the four sides of
an appliance with the relatively outer peripheral edge portions of the base positioned
adjacent the bottom surfaces of the appliance;

the outer peripheral edge of the base being recessed relative to inner portions
of the base along at least one side thereof, the recess of the outer edge along the at least one
side creating a gap between the base and adjacent portions of an appliance supported thereon
and permitting said outer peripheral edge of the base to deflect upwards without engaging
the adjacent portions of the appliance.

4. (Amended) A base as claimed in claim 3, wherein the one or more sockets
comprise:

a plurality of flexible ribs projecting inwardly from the internal sidewall of
the well,

the ribs extending into the socket to engage the appliance foot upon insertion
into the well of the socket.

6. (Amended) A base as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:
one or more sockets defining open ended wells in the frame of the base for
receipt of the feet of the appliance to be supported by the base,

the sockets having a plurality of flexible ribs projecting inwardly from the
internal sidewall of the well,

the ribs extending into each socket to engage an appliance foot upon insertion
into the well of the socket,

the ribs capable of deforming in response to engagement with the foot of the
appliance upon insertion into the well of the socket.